

BILL # SB 1448

TITLE: refundable hunting license

SPONSOR: Gould

STATUS: As Introduced

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FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

This bill allows hunters who do not receive a big game permit to apply for a refund of the Class G hunting license, which is required to apply for any big game permit. Current statute does not allow for refunds of Class G hunting license fees.

Estimated Impact

The bill is estimated to result in a loss of Game and Fish Fund revenue of up to \$2,876,500 annually, depending on how many Class G hunting license holders request a refund. Revenues received from the sale of Class G hunting licenses are deposited into the Game and Fish Fund.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department does not yet have an estimate of the fiscal impact of the bill.

Analysis

In order to purchase a big game permit, an applicant must first purchase a Class G hunting license. A Class G license also allows the holder to participate in small game, furbearer, and predator hunts. Currently, a residential Class G license is \$25.50 and an out of state permit is \$113.50. After receiving a Class G license, an applicant would then apply for any or all of the big game permits, which are awarded through a lottery. The department currently administers 8 types of big game permits. Proceeds from sales of Class G licenses and big game permits are deposited in the Game and Fish Fund.

In FY 2005, the department sold 62,901 residential Class G permits and 22,626 non-resident Class G permits, yielding \$4,172,000 in revenue to the Game and Fish Fund. Total revenue to the Game and Fish Fund in FY 2005 was \$20,570,300. In contrast to the 85,527 Class G licenses which were sold in 2005, a total of 104,899 big game permits were sold in that year. Of the total amount, the department reported that 98,914 were residential big game permits, while 5,985 were non-resident big game permits.

Because the department does not track the number of Class G licenses which do not receive a big game permit, it can not be determined how many Class G licenses could potentially receive a refund. Additionally, because the refund process would require the purchaser of the license to request a refund, it is not possible to know with any degree of certainty how many licensees would request a refund in any given year. If no Class G License holders request a refund, there would be no loss of revenue from the Game and Fish Fund. If the maximum number applied for the refund, an amount of \$2,876,500 would be refunded.

Local Government Impact

None